

Crime in Israel has gained 35 per cent in last 5 years

TEL AVIV (AP) — Leah Hirschkovitz survived the Nazi Auschwitz concentration camp and sought peace in Israel after the war, but recently at the age of 68 she was beaten to the sidewalk by three Tel Aviv thugs, robbed and raped. She is now in a mental hospital.

Many Israelis remember when the country had virtually no crime, but today burglaries, muggings, assault and sex offenses are becoming daily occurrences. Police statistics show that crime in general has risen 35 per cent in the past five years.

Murders increased by 65 per cent from 31 in 1971 to 49 in 1972, and rapes rose from 80 to 109 in the same one-year period. One specialist estimates there are about 5,000 drug addicts in Israel, and police figure there are approximately 4,000 prostitutes, 60 per cent of them between the ages of 14 and 17.

Israel's population is about 3 million.

Gangs of hoodlums have been known to crash parties at high schools and private homes and provoke fights with knives and chains.

"When your children go out of the house at night," one Tel Aviv mother remarked, "you're not sure they're going to come back."

Police deny there is centrally organized crime in Israel, but they acknowledge that small syndicates extort large sums of money in protection rackets from shops, bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

Officials attribute the wave of lawlessness in part to urbanization and the economic prosperity of some people following the 1967 Israeli-Arab war.

"The morals and values of society here are deteriorating," lamented police spokesman Mordechai Tavor. "Now thieves feel self-righteous about stealing from someone richer than themselves."

Last September, 150 combat-trained border police were moved from the Gaza Strip —

where they had been fighting Arab guerrillas — to patrol the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Tavor says the city could use 3,000 more policemen.

A sweeping federal gun control bill passed last October upped penalties for possession of illegal firearms from three to 10 years' imprisonment.

The problems do not end with arrests, however. Prison officials complain of overcrowded conditions and maintain that about half the inmates commit second offenses and return to jail. Also, Courts are clogged and a backlog of cases permits defendants to commit additional crimes before their first offense comes up for trial.

Crime has risen in sophistication, too. "Most robbers used to run when the police came," Tavor said. "Now they'll try to shoot their way out." Ten policemen have been killed on duty since 1971.

One case that still has the experts baffled is the "Great Telephone Robbery" last September. A thief tried to cash some bad checks totaling more than \$10,000, and when the bank teller phoned to verify the account, accomplices lapped the line and okayed the checks.

"It was sheer brilliance," a Tel Aviv private detective said.

Rising medical bills cause Fla. couple to get divorce

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — "It's final, but I still love her," said Howard Thomas after he divorced his wife of 32 years so the critically ill woman could get welfare benefits to pay her mounting medical bills.

His 45-year-old wife, Ruth, lay in a nursing home unaware of the 10-minute divorce hearing Tuesday dissolving a marriage which had given the couple six children.

She is in the advanced stages of incurable multiple sclerosis.

"I was shook, and the judge was shook, too," said Thomas, a 49-year-old steelworker. "He knew it was something that had to be done.... Just like me, he wished he didn't have to do it."

Thomas dissolved his marriage under Florida's year-old no-fault divorce law, which does not require an adversary proceeding.

After Circuit Court Judge C. Richard Leavengood granted the decree, Thomas applied in his wife's behalf for the state welfare assistance needed to insure continued medical treatment.

Jack Youngblood of the Florida Division of Family Services said Tuesday night the appli-

cation would be processed with "due haste." The division administers the state-supported Medicaid program.

Leavengood gave Thomas custody of his two youngest children, ages 5 and 11. The others are adults.

"We're behind our father 100 per cent," said daughter Brenda Plivinski. "If my mother were aware of the situation, I know she would understand."

Last November, state officials said they had made a mistake in granting Thomas Medicaid benefits to help pay for his wife's costs at a nursing home — he earned \$79 more than the maximum to qualify.

"The \$117 monthly payment he had been receiving for 17 months was halted, but the \$500 monthly nursing home cost continued."

It was then that Thomas said he decided to sue for divorce, explaining then, "I'm at the end of my rope...."

The Walkind Neurological Hospital in Chester, N.J., has offered to treat Mrs. Thomas at no cost. She is expected to fly there later this month on an Air Force plane.

Father of suicide victim sees injustice to patrol, motorists

GREEN RIVER, Wyo. (AP)—A Utah man whose son committed suicide along Interstate 80 near here has written

letters to law enforcement agencies, saying he felt "an injustice" had been done to passing motorists and the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Jesse L. Huffstetler of Woods Cross, Utah said his son's suicide note "was a final comment on his life, not a condemnation of thoughtless motorists as many people read it."

The body of David Huffstetler, 25, was discovered in a rented car west of here Feb. 3. He had shot himself with a .22-caliber pistol.

Next to the body was a note reading: "I have been waiting for 11 hours for someone to stop. I can't stand the cold any longer. They just keep passing by."

Huffstetler's car was found in the parking lane along the highway and was out of gas. But the Highway Patrol claimed he couldn't have been stranded 11 hours as indicated in the note because a patrolman had driven along the stretch of road two hours before the body was found and hadn't seen the car. The Patrol also said the weather was mild.

The Patrol and other law enforcement agencies also said the car had been seen parked along the road at various points for two weeks prior to the suicide.

In his letter, Jesse Huffstetler said: "The 11 hours were the last hours of his (his son's) life. He was waiting all his life—he wanted help without having to admit he needed it and without asking for it. The help had to be volunteered."

Huffstetler said the reference to the cold meant his son had "to face his ordeal alone."

He said the final sentence in the suicide note "was the root of David's anguish."

"The 'they' who were passing by were friends and acquaintances who forged ahead and left him behind," said Huffstetler. "He just couldn't cope with the frustrations he faced while others pressed on."

"An injustice has been done to the people who passed by without knowing and to the people of Wyoming," said Huffstetler. "Don't add to my grief by condemning those who passed."

Most-wanted list levels off

By TOM SEPPY
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI's list of most wanted fugitives has leveled off at 10, with more than half of them political revolutionaries, and there is no indication it will be expanded in the near future.

But there is no reason why it couldn't, should the need arise.

"We're not wedded to the number ten," said Jack E. Herington, the FBI spokesman. "We would like to keep it at 10. If it's necessary, we'll add names to the list."

The 23-year-old Ten Most Wanted Fugitives program first went over 10 in 1961 when hatchet-killer Richard Marquette was put on the list. He was arrested the following day.

In late 1970, however, the FBI list reached a record high with 18 people, nine of them sought for such crimes as sabotage and terrorist acts.

The current list, which was reduced to 10 last summer, contains the names of seven so-called political revolutionaries.

Herington said that the political fugitives have caused the investigative agency some problems because they may have fled the country to a sanctuary where the U.S. has no jurisdiction, such as Algeria.

Another problem, he said, is that the political fugitive doesn't travel in the same circles as the traditional bank robber or murderer whose apprehension built the reputation of accomplishment for the FBI.

"They move in a different culture," he said. "The political fugitive does not move in the normal underground system. It makes it more difficult for us."

On Feb. 17, 1972, Karleton Lewis Armstrong, one of four men wanted in connection with a fatal bombing on the University of Wisconsin campus, was captured by Canadian police in Toronto.

Only one other person on the then-list of 12 was apprehended during the year—Byron J. Rice who had been charged with the murder of an armored car guard. He surrendered to FBI agents in Chicago last Aug. 1.

There have been 317 persons put on the most wanted fugitive list since its inception in 1950 and 295 have been 'apprehended. Twelve others, including two last year, were taken off because they either were believed dead or the charges were dropped against them.

The "process dismissed" action is the only way a person's name can be removed from the list once it is put on.

Acting FBI director L. Pat-

rick Gray III, and J. Edgar Hoover before him, decides what fugitives are placed on the Top Ten list after receiving recommendations from the field.

Hoover personally ordered the list to be expanded in 1961 and 1970 because he thought it was of utmost importance that the fugitives be caught.

Asked about the criticism that the FBI puts the name of fugitives they are about to capture on the list, Herington replied that the charge was ridiculous.

"There hasn't been a single case like that," he said. "We don't get any extra points for a top 10 fugitive. If we can catch a fugitive, we'll catch him."

He said there have been quick arrests because the program works.

"The method has been effective because we have apprehended fugitives after he has been on the list for only 24 or 48 hours," he said. "But somebody may see his picture in the paper or on television and spot him on the street. That person will call the FBI and we are then able to move rapidly."

The newest addition to the Top Ten list is Mace Brown, a convicted hired assassin who participated in an escape from the District of Columbia jail

last fall. He was put on last Oct. 20.

Charles Lee Herron, one of five men allegedly involved in the slaying of one police officer and the critical wounding of another in Nashville, Tenn., on Jan. 16, 1968, was placed on the list on Feb. 9, 1968, and has been on the longest.

The others are Benjamin H. Paddock, who escaped from a federal prison in Texas while serving a 20-year sentence; Cameron D. Bishop, charged with sabotage in the dynamiting of Colorado power transmission towers;

Also, Dwight A. Armstrong, Leo Burl and David Fine, all wanted in the University of Wisconsin bombing; Bernardine Dohrn, a self-described revolutionary Communist and leader of the Weatherman; and Susan E. Saxe and Katherine Ann Power, reputed members of a radical, revolutionary group dedicated to attacking the United States military system and undermining police powers.

Blues music 'in' on campuses

By BILL WINTER
Associated Press Writer
CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — Monster movies, conservative speakers and classical or blues music apparently are "in" on college campuses this year. Radicals and rock are on the wane.

Such is the message being generated by the National Entertainment Conference, a noisy four-day gathering of agents and collegians to arrange bookings for talent on campus.

Students and campus talent coordinators from throughout the nation are here. Some are working with budgets of more than \$90,000 a year, others with as little as \$4,000.

Agents report a brisk business in the talent market, and they add that a couple of significant trends are showing.

First, they say, the blues or even the classics are more likely to be heard than "hard rock" when collegians gather these days.

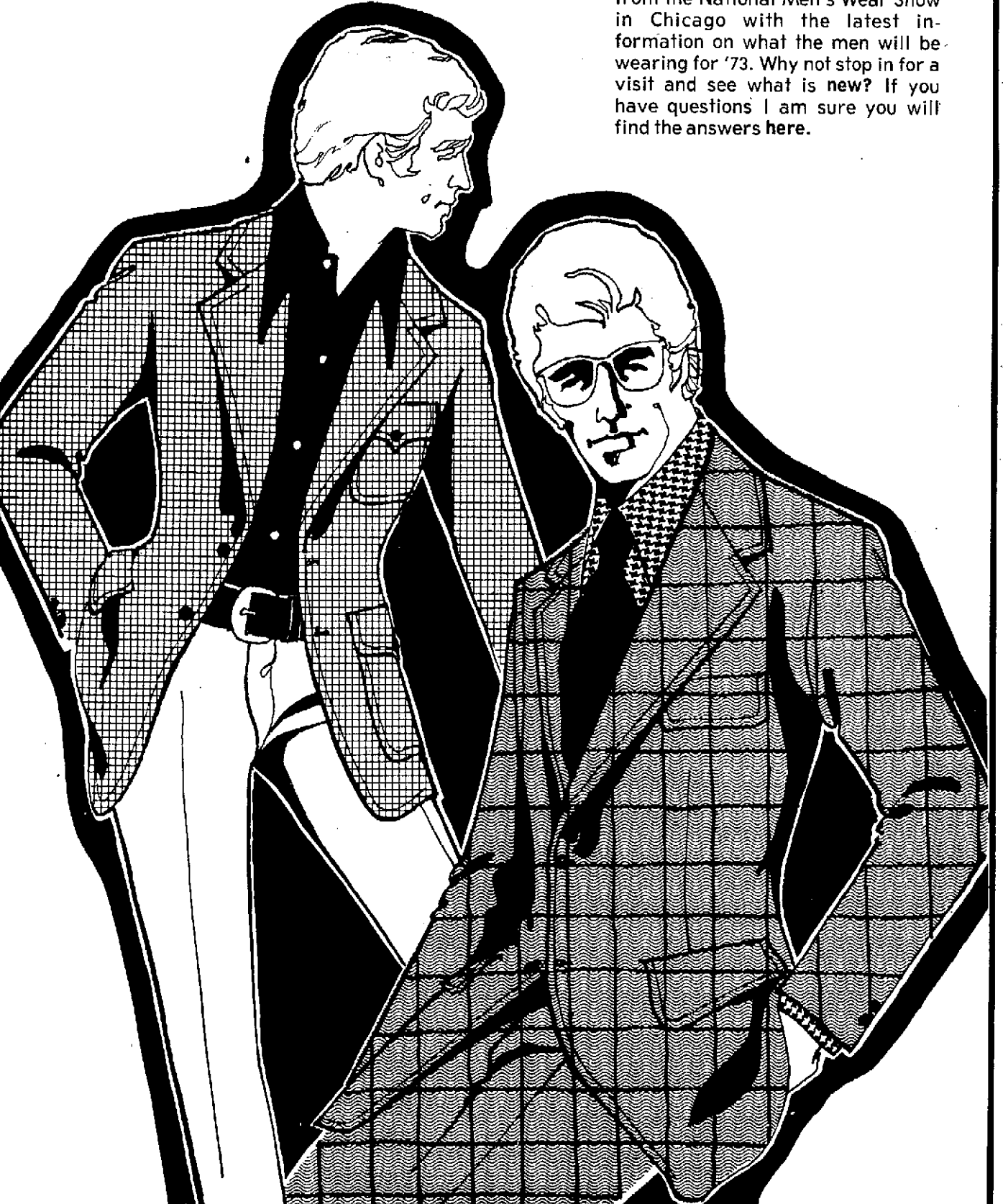
Secondly, radical speakers are out on campus, at least and conservatives are in.

"It goes along with the mood of the country, a general lifting of the spirit of things," said one agent.

There's a "monster booth" where collegians can arrange for campus viewings of vintage horror films.

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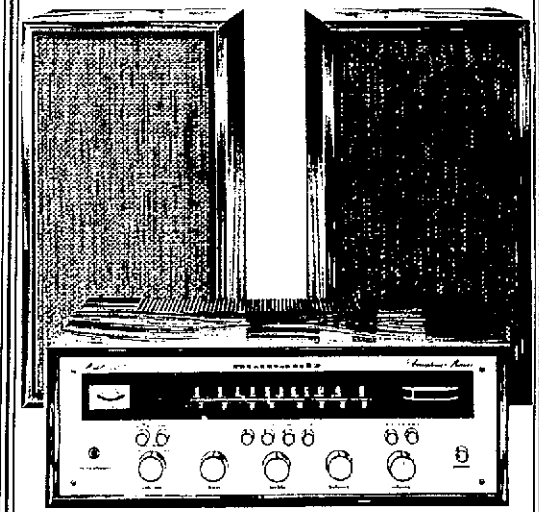
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